Committee For Children

2112 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 1008

Washington, DC 20009-652050 509 SFES 65 792:25 Telephone: 202/332-1770

Facsimile: 202/986-0007

Donna Shalala, Secretary U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201 OR email: hhsmail@os.dhhs.gov

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to express my concern about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the FDA. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

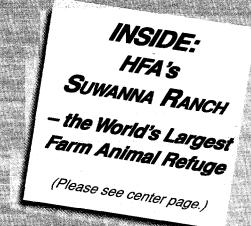
Food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

Please defend my right to know in this important decision-making process.

Sincerely,



· CAMPAIGN AGAINST FACTORY FARMING ·



VOLUMEXIV, NO. 1/SPRING 1999

1550 CALIFORNIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

Pork Industry Dealt Major Setback — HFA Lawsuit Challenges Massive Hog Factory

s we go to press, the fate of what would be the third largest pork factory in the nation has been called into question by a groundbreaking HFA lawsuit. So far, there have been two significant court rulings.

In the first court case, before a federal judge in Washington, D.C., HFA scored a major victory. In a second court decision, this one before a judge in South Dakota, our opponents prevailed. What will happen next no one can predict. But everyone agrees that the stakes are very high.

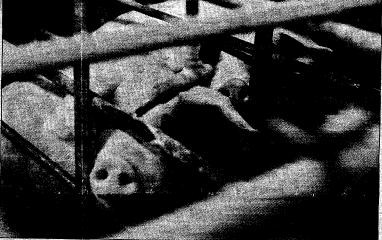
Background:

The public at large is becoming more aware of

the cruelty and environmental hazards associated with large, intensive confinement pork factories. Millions have been made aware by HFA's documentation of industry abuses. HFA's exposés, for instance, have now been repeatedly broadcast on major network news programs, including 60 Minutes.

Many other people have become aware of the extent of the problem after having their communities poisoned by pollution generated by nearby hog factories. With this increasing level of public awareness, agribusiness is looking for locations where it can sidestep environmental laws and community opposition. And that has now brought agribusiness to Indian reservations.

Because of the high level of poverty, some tribal leaders appear willing to bring in almost any business that might create income. Indian land appeals to agribusiness corporations because they can more easily sidestep environmental laws.



Breeding sows on factory farms suffer most of their lives locked in narrow metal crates.

Current Battle:

Bell Farms, the large agribusiness pork company headquartered in North Dakota, is presently racing to construct a huge facility on the land held in trust for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. This facility, which was temporarily halted by the government following HFA's lawsuit, would have an output of 859,000 hogs per year. And it would create a daily raw sewage load equivalent to that of 3,436,000 humans — the waste produced by a city seven times the size of Denver.

Slaughterhouse Shockwaves





HFA's groundbreaking investigative exposé, Slaughterhouse, by Chief Investigator Gail Eisnitz, is awakening millions. Above, the explosive work is the feature story on national television.

USDA Secretary Dan Glickman on the hot seat — here being questioned about HFA's Slaughterhouse. Glickman concedes that enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act is almost nonexistent.





HFA's landmark book *Slaughterhouse* is awakening a new generation of Americans to the abuses perpetuated by the U.S. meat-packing industry.

Slaughterhouse has quickly become the authoritative reference for anyone interested in the treatment of farm animals. The news media are broadcasting HFA's findings, members of Congress have called for federal reforms — even President Clinton's cabinet member, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman, has stated the book is being carefully read by government officials and meat inspectors.

HFA is currently working hard not only to educate people — but also to *halt* the abuses we have so carefully documented. ■

Congressman: Animals Slaughtered While Conscious

Associated Press

Washington Livestock are routinely skinned, dismembered or scalded while still conscious despite a law that requires animals to be knocked out before they are slaughtered, says a Congressman who helped strengthen the law 20 years ago.

In a recent letter to the Agriculture Department, Representative George Brown, D-San Bernardino, alleged that packing plant workers "often find themselves resorting to unbelievable brutality" to keep production lines moving, some as fast as 1,100 animals per hour.

Brown, a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, urged Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to "take whatever actions are necessary" to ensure that the law is enforced.

His statement was based on allegations of USDA inspectors and a recent book, "Slaughterhouse," that is based on interviews over the past decade with workers at several plants.

The book quotes plant workers describing live hogs being dumped in scalding tubs and cattle being skinned or dismembered while still conscious. The workers say stun guns frequently fail to knock out the animals.

USDA officials, who are responsible for enforcing the law, deny widespread mistreatment of animals.

Representatives of the meat-packing industry say there is no incentive for them to slaughter conscious animals because the stress damages meat quality.

"We try to treat the hogs as gentle as we can prior to stunning because we get better quality meat," said Joseph Luter III, chief executive officer of Virginia-based Smithfield Foods, one of the nation's biggest packers. Smithfield slaughters 80,000 hogs a day at five plants.

The book's author, Gail Eisnitz of the Humane Farming Association, interviewed several workers at the Sioux Falls, S.D. plant before its takeover by Smithfield. One worker, an official in the local union, told her: "I've seen live animals shackled, hoisted, stuck, and skinned. Too many to count."

At a Smithfield plant in Bladen County, N.C., live hogs have been dumped in the scalding tub used to remove hair, Eisnitz wrote. The hogs are supposed to bleed to death before reaching the tub. Two current or former USDA employees say they have seen practices similar to those alleged in the book.

Steve Cockerham, an inspector in Nebraska, said USDA does not know whether animals are being slaughtered properly because inspectors are not stationed in that part of the plant....

Lester Friedlander, a former USDA veterinarian, said he has seen cattle bellowing and moving after they were supposed to be stunned, as well as live cows that were treated so roughly as they were moved into the plant that their skin was ripped off. "I can't believe we're here in 1999, and there's still abuse," he said. hen HFA began the National Veal Boycott, veal production was the most rapidly-expanding segment of the meat industry. When we launched our campaign back in the 1980s, 3.4 million veal calves were slaughtered annually in the United States.

By 1988, after three years of unrelenting attack by HFA, veal production plummeted to 2.5 million. But that was only the beginning. As circumstances evolved, so would our tactics. But at no time would HFA waver in its fight to protect calves.

During the 1990s, HFA devoted more time to what would become legendary undercover investigations and direct attacks on the industry's drug-based methods of operation. HFA's success was twofold.



This anemic calf will never walk or turn around. HFA has vowed to end this misery — and we are getting closer every day!

First, HFA sharply curtailed the use of the veal industry's most cherished (albeit toxic and illegal) growth hormone, *clenbuterol*. The industry's profit margin is tied to its ability to chemically-induce fast growth in calves. The U.S. Justice Department's crackdown on the use of *clenbuterol* in veal, prompted by the work of HFA, has impacted "milk-fed" veal factories throughout the country.

HFA's National Veal Boycott

— The Best Year Ever!

Veal consumption in the U.S. has just hit an all-time record low. But we can't let up now! Your support will help HFA land a knock-out punch.

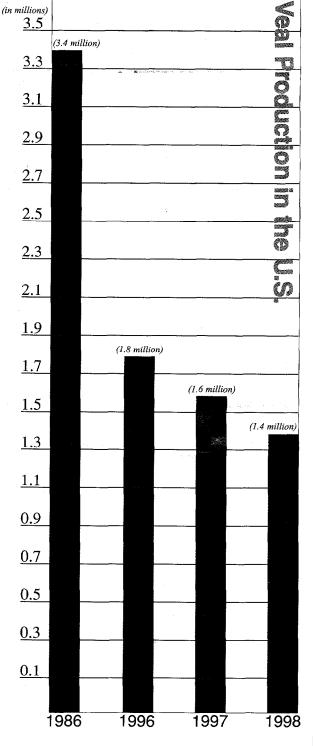
Secondly, the extensive national publicity this scandal has created has rightly served to repulse a large segment of the general public.

When measuring our success, we do not simply add up the number of veal factories HFA has shut down, the number of veal processing plants we have forced out of business, the national media coverage we have generated, or the number of veal feed companies and industry leaders we have had indicted on criminal charges.

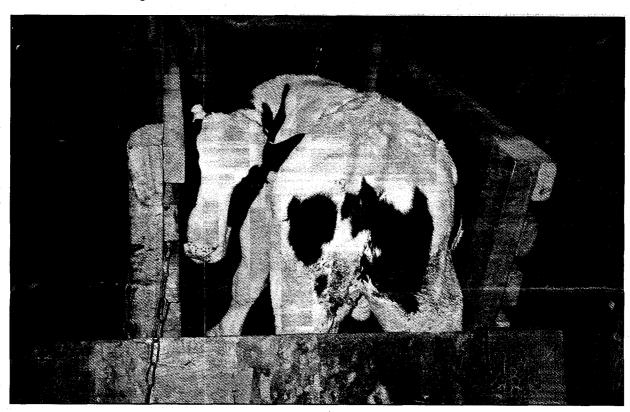
The numbers shown on the graph to the right tell the real story of HFA's unparalleled success in preventing the suffering of millions of animals. As a direct result of your support of HFA's National Veal Boycott, the number of calves raised for veal has dropped from 3.4 million annually — to 1.4 million at the end of last year. This drop is particularly impressive when you consider that, during this period of time, the U.S. population has risen by approximately 14 percent.

Right now, executives from two leading veal industry companies are sitting in federal prison for the crimes HFA has exposed and pursued. As we work throughout 1999, we take joy in the knowledge that, this year alone, two million baby calves will be spared the horror and agony of veal production — two million calves that would have suffered if not for activism on their behalf.

Campaign Update



Q: Why can't this veal calf walk?



A: He has only two feet.

Actually, <u>less</u> than two feet. Twenty-two inches to be exact. His entire life is spent chained in a wooden crate measuring only 22 inches wide and 56 inches long. The crate is so small that the calf can't walk or even turn around.

Most people think animal abuse is illegal. It isn't. In veal factories, it's business as usual. "Milk-fed" veal is produced by making a calf anemic. The calf is *not* fed mother's milk. He's fed an antibiotic-laced formula that leads to diarrhea. He must lie in his own excrement — choking on the ammonia gases. He's chained with hundreds of other baby calves suffering the same fate. They are immobilized, drugged, and anemic.

Toxic Veal

According to the USDA, sulfamethazine (a known carcinogen), oxytetracycline, penicillin, neomycin, streptomycin, and gentamycin have all been found in veal.

Doesn't the USDA prevent tainted veal from being sold? Absolutely not. The USDA itself admits that most veal is never tested for toxic residue.

The industry claims that the drugs used in veal have been approved by the FDA. But don't buy it. The fact is: Toxic and illegal drugs such as *clenbuterol* have been routinely used in veal calves.

Veal factories maximize profits for agribusiness drug companies because they are a breeding ground for disease. To keep calves alive under such torturous conditions, they are given drugs which can be passed on to consumers.

It doesn't have to be this way. And with your help, it won't be. *Please boycott veal*.

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HFA Files Legal Petitions to Combat MAD COW Disease in the United States

You may have seen in the nation's newspapers several weeks ago a chilling report that hinted at the magnitude of what may be the world's next great epidemic.

A panel of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) scientists have asked our government to prohibit blood donations from people who have lived in England in the last twenty years. Their concern is that these people may have eaten meat infected with mad cow disease and could be at risk for getting and spreading the disease here in the U.S.

Don't expect the FDA, however, to voluntarily adopt this recommendation from its own scientific advisors. For the FDA is already ignoring even more compelling scientific warnings about mad cow disease, in particular, the dangers of feeding dead animals to farm animals.

It is because of this inaction that HFA has filed two formal legal petitions demanding that the federal government act immediately to monitor and prevent mad cow type diseases in the U.S. Joining with HFA in this effort are the Center for Food Safety, the Center for Media & Democracy, and several families of CJD victims.

The Silent Killer

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) are killing people, deer, elk, and sheep in the U.S. TSEs are a mysterious class of diseases that are called by different names in different species.

Some identified types of TSEs are Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD) which is a human disease apparently caused by the same agent which causes bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease.

HFA's demand for immediate government action is given added urgency by the case of a thirty-year old Utah man who is now terminally ill with CJD, a mad cow type disease in humans.

Douglas McEwen may have contracted CJD by eating or handling deer or elk infected with mad deer disease. Additionally, there is concern that, as a frequent blood donor, he may have inadvertently passed on contaminated blood to others.

Commenting to the news media on the petitions, HFA's National Director Bradley Miller stated, "TSEs represent a potentially devastating threat to both human and animal health. Given what we know now, it is unconscionable that our government is still allowing the feeding of blood and other animal

by-products to farm animals."

The common characteristic of TSE diseases is that they are invariably fatal. They can be transmitted to humans through exposure to contaminated human growth hormone, corneal transplants, the use of "It is unconscionable that our government is"

A major route of transmission occurs through ingestion of the

dura mater in transplants,

the use of infected probes,

and possibly through

blood.

that our government is still allowing the feeding of blood and other animal by-products to farm animals."

infectious agent, such as eating infected meat. The agent does not trigger an immune response. The doomed animal or human appears to be in perfectly normal health for a significant portion of their lifetime.

Later, the disease emerges as holes and amyloid plaque material spreading in the brain, causing symptoms of dementia (which routinely appears to be Alzheimer's Disease), physical failure, and death.

Before a human or animal exhibits symptoms there is no way to test for the disease even though the human or animal is infected and contagious.

The common characteristic of TSE diseases is that they are invariably fatal.

Prior to the appearance of nvCJD, the

best known occurrence of a TSE in humans was the disease kuru, a TSE that appeared in the Fore tribe in New Guinea in the early 20th century. This disease was spread by cannibalistic rituals, including not only the consumption of brain but exposure of brain matter to mucous membranes and cuts in the skin.

Just as cannibalistic rituals produced the TSE kuru in humans, forcing farm animals to become "cannibals"

(Continued on page 8)

HFA'S SUWANNA RANCH

Sometimes, dreams do come true....

The Humane Farming Association (HFA) is proud to announce the formal opening of Suwanna Ranch — the largest rescue facility ever created for abused farm animals. Suwanna Ranch is the namesake of Suwanna Gauntlett, HFA's longtime friend and visionary.

Made possible by a major grant from the Barbara Delano Foundation, the acquisition of SUWANNA RANCH is a dream come true for animals and for all people dedicated to animal protection.

For many years, HFA has been recognized as the only national farm animal protection organization with a shelter that has never turned away farm animals seized as a result of a cruelty case.

The fact that HFA stands ready to provide both temporary and permanent care encourages law enforcement agencies to use their legal authority to confiscate farm animals in cases of criminal

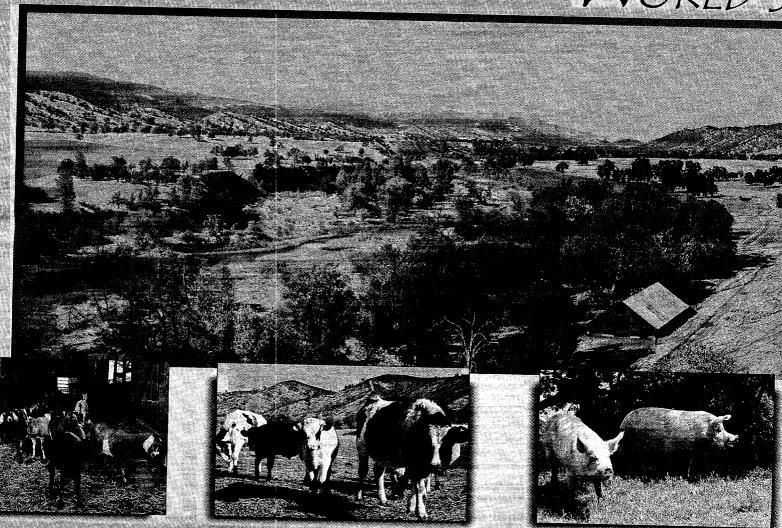
neglect and abuse.

And now, thanks to the Barbara Delano Foundation, HFA's lifesaving programs have taken a quantum leap. Suwanna Ranch, encompassing over six square miles of land, offers hands-on emergency care, rehabilitation, and refuge for abused and battered animals brought to us from across the country.

HFA's policy care fo animal law enj

In addition to saving mistreated domestic animals, Suwanna Ranch also functions as a wildlife sanctuary. Several areas within Suwanna Ranch are protected

---WORLD'S



habitats for deer, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, possum, owl, eagle, hawk, quail, wild turkey, egret, great blue heron, and other wildlife.

While HFA has long provided care, rehabilitation, and refuge to farm animals at its previous facilities, the acquisition of Suwanna Ranch adds an

entirely new dimension to animal protection efforts nationwide.

paralleled to provide ny farm ized by cement in ises.

The sheer magnitude of HFA's new refuge ensures that rescued animals will have acres and acres on which to graze, heal, and explore as they recover from cruelty and abuse.

The refuge is completely perimeter-fenced and has several cross-fenced pastures which are utilized for rotational grazing. In this way, feeding costs are kept to a minimum.

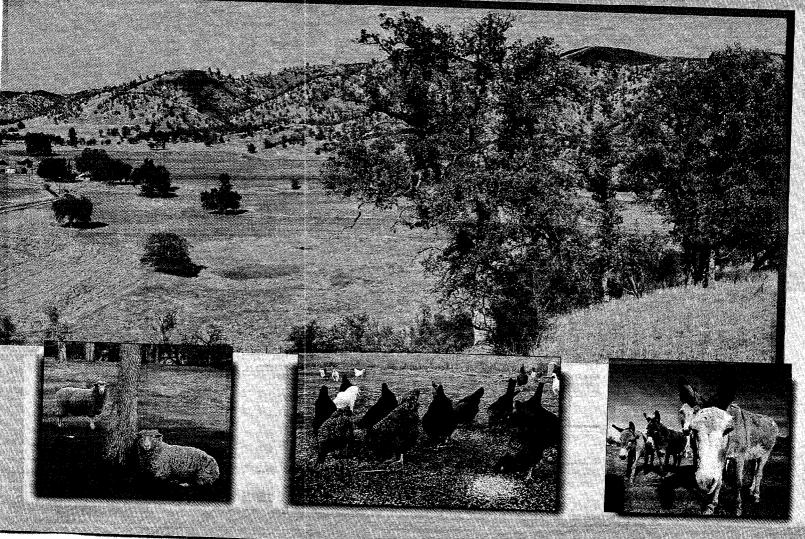
The acquisition of Suvanna Ranch did not come a moment too soon. Before we knew it, HFA was facilitating the largest farm animal rescue ever conducted in the United States.



As previously reported not only by us but also by local and national news media, HFA was alerted to a terrible situation in which an estimated 600 starving emus had been virtually abandoned within the confines of an emu factory farm just north of Orland, California.

With no other organization in the area willing to step forward to save the 600 starving emus, county animal regulation authorities turned to HFA.

LARGEST FARM ANIMAL REFUGE (Continued on page 10)



creates the same problems.

British mad cow disease (BSE) appeared in the mid-1980s. It quickly spread from just a few animals to infect hundreds of thousands.

By 1988, this disease was linked to feeding rendered animal by-products to livestock. British cattle were consuming the remains of sheep, cattle, and other animals deemed unfit for human consumption.

Despite the British outbreak, the dangerous practice of feeding rendered meat and bonemeal to livestock has been widely practiced in the U.S., where no meaningful restrictions were even attempted until August 1997.

Today, the U.S. still allows practices that should be banned, such as feeding pigs to pigs, pigs to cattle, and

> SUMMARY OF HFA'S PETITION TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

In its first petition, HFA demands that:

- Blood and blood products from all mammals, including pigs and cows, must be prohibited for use in animal feed and pet foods.
- Gelatin and gelatin by-products must not be used in animal feed, as gelatin might carry infectious agents.
- Porcine materials must not be used in animal feed because U.S. pigs are known to have exhibited symptoms of central nervous system disease suspected as being TSE and have proven susceptible to TSE in laboratory tests.
 - TSE-positive material absolutely must not be fed to any animals or be used in cosmetics, fertilizer or other products.

cattle blood products to calves. These practices are allowed despite suggestive evidence that TSE disease may already infect pigs, cattle, and squirrels and despite the existence of proven TSEs in sheep, deer, elk, and

To date, 33 human beings have died from new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD), apparently contracted from cattle infected with BSE. How many more will die is uncertain.

Due to the long incubation period, it will be many years before the extent of the disease and deaths are determined. Estimates now range from dozens to hundreds of thousands of eventual deaths from nvCJD in

CJD also exists in the U.S., but it is unclear at what level. Most CJD here is considered "sporadic" with an unknown cause. However, the U.S. has a large population of persons with various dementia diseases, the most often diagnosed being Alzheimer's (four million cases). And studies of people in the U.S. who have died of dementia suggest much higher levels of CJD than commonly suspected.

Unlike virtually all other diseases, including AIDS, where the infectious agent can be detected in the early stages of the incubation process, doctors are unable to determine if a person is infected with TSE until right before symptoms occur.

Currently, federal agencies do not even require state health officials to report TSE cases.

> SUMMARY OF HFA'S PETITION TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

HFA's second petition demands that the CDC:

- Initiate a significant epidemiological investigation to determine the incidence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies among the human population of the U.S.
- Develop an ongoing national monitoring and registry program utilizing autopsy examinations to determine any changes in the incidence of CJDlike diseases among the human population of the U.S.
 - Direct all state medical officers to engage in a reporting process, similar to the reporting requirements of other infectious and transmissible diseases, to the CDC for the purpose of establishing a national cumulative database and reporting system.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- 1. Please write to the FDA. Demand that they act on the HFA petition to put an end to the practice of feeding dead pigs. horses, and other animals to other farm animals. Cows are not meat eaters by nature and they shouldn't be forced to eat dead animals. Letters should be addressed to: FDA Commissioner Jane Henney: FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71; Rockville, MD 20857. Refer to Docket 99P-0033/CP 1
- 2. Please also write to Donna Shalala, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Ask that she immediately act on the HFA petition to initiate a nationwide program to document the incidents of CJD-like diseases. Letters to Shalala should be addressed to: 200 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 Refer to HFA vs. HHS.

Many local Native American residents have joined with HFA in our lawsuit to halt the project. They feel, and rightly so, that they have been sold out by their political leaders.

One tribal elder told HFA's attorney that the prayer, which is her daily sustenance, is the invocation "mitakuve ovasin." That means, "all my relations." It expresses this Lakota woman's kinship with all life, including the animal world. She explained that the proposed hog factory is an abomination of all that is sacred to Lakota people and that she would not rest until her ancestral land is safe from such facilities.



HFA's lawsuit aims to halt the proliferation of these facilities.

Giant corporations such as Bell Farms now produce most of the nation's pork and pork products. Cruelly confining millions of sows in small crates, these operations bring disastrous environmental hazards to local communities.

The Humane Farming Association has brought a lawsuit to block the Bell Farms facility based on the fact that the massive hog factory is being built without the environmental reviews required by federal law.

As a result of HFA's lawsuit in Washington, D.C., the federal government (specifically, the Bureau of Indian Affairs) conceded defeat and revoked the lease

for Bell Farms. That brought the project to an immediate halt.

Stunned by this startling setback, Bell Farms responded by filing suit in South Dakota. Arguing before a local judge (one much closer to the local power structure than the judge in Washington, D.C.), Bell Farms requested permission to proceed with its construction pending a final ruling on the case.

They were granted this request creating somewhat of a stalemate until the next court hearing.

HFA's successful lawsuit in Washington, D.C. marks the first ever grassroots legal victory against the pork industry based on environmental law. And we have successfully challenged the pork industry's strategy to exploit Native Americans. It is your support that continues to make this work possible. We will be sure to keep you informed as this important case develops.

HFA's Award-Winning Video Documentary The Pig Picture



7he Pig Picture may forever change America's image of the "Other White Meat."

Highlighting never-before-seen HFA investigative footage, this powerful documentary traces the development of commercial pig rearing in America — from the small-scale family farms of yesterday — to the corporate owned pig factories of today.

This high-quality documentary details the natural behavior of pigs, the suffering of factory-raised pigs, the industry's reliance upon antibiotics/drugs, and the environmental impact of factory farming.

7he Pig Picture provides you with all the ammunition you need to show others why factory farming must be stopped.

The Pig Picture is recommended for people of all ages. It does not contain scenes of animal slaughter and is ideal for group showings.

The Pig Picture is available for only \$15 exclusively from HFA. Please use the order form to order your copy today.

Unwilling to allow these animals to be further exploited (or used for target practice — which was an option being considered by local ranchers), HFA sprang into action, agreeing to rescue the starving birds.

The emu rescue generated extensive media coverage of SUWANNA RANCH and of HFA's lifesaving work. It also alerted millions of Americans to the widespread abuses and mistreatment taking place within the commerical emu industry.

Not long after this historic rescue, HFA answered another desperate call for help.

The following excerpt is taken directly from a recent reporting of a North Carolina cow starvation case in which HFA played a critical role.

"Animal Control Officers in Buncombe County, North Carolina responded to a complaint that cows were

wandering loose on a road. What they discovered instead was an entire herd of abused cattle at a dairy farm. Over two dozen cows, bulls, and calves were severely malnourished, dehydrated, and full of parasites.

"One cow had been down for days with a broken hip and was found lying in her own feces.

"Young calves were lying on their sides, too weak even to lift their heads. All of the animals were suffering from gross neglect — one cow was already dead and several animals were near death."

After the herd was turned away by a much closer sanctuary in New York, local authorities in North Carolina turned to HFA. And, as is our policy, since this was a case of criminal animal cruelty, HFA immediately agreed to provide refuge.

Grateful Buncombe County Animal Control personnel successfully coordinated the logistics of transporting the surviving cows safely to HFA's SUWANNA RANCH in California.





Just part of the tragic scene in North Carolina. Most of the survivors have been rescued and brought to Suwanna Ranch. Cruelty charges were leveled against the abusive ranchers.

The surviving cows have since recovered from their terrible ordeal and now share SUWANNA RANCH with the many other animal residents, including emus, cows, goats, sheep, pigs, turkeys, chickens, burros — and caring human beings.

New Resources — New Strength

We are happy to report that this major expansion of HFA's hands-on animal rescue and refuge program was accomplished without taking resources away from our vitally important legal actions, investigations, and national anti-cruelty campaigns.

As the recipient of the Barbara Delano Foundation's generous grant, it was not necessary for HFA to use membership contributions in order to acquire the property. HFA's lifesaving work at SUWANNA RANCH serves to *complement* our other programs such as HFA's highly-successful National Veal

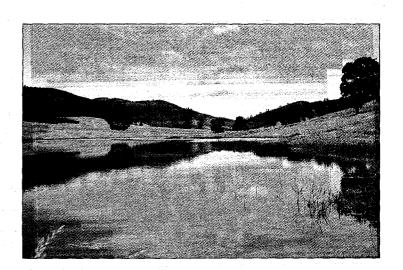
Boycott and overall campaign against factory farming.

We are deeply grateful to the Trustees of the Barbara Delano Foundation — Christopher C. Angell, Suwanna B. Gauntlett, Charles C. Goodfellow, Jerome A. Manning, and

Neal P. Myerberg — for turning a dream into a reality.

Their compassion has established a unique and lasting place in the world — giving protection and refuge to countless sentient beings.

Over six square miles of land, Suwanna Ranch adds an entirely new dimension to animal protection efforts nationwide.





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The Pig Picture (Not shown on this page.)

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Mr. J. Scott Douglas
Committee For Children
2112 New Hampshire Avenue
Washington, DC 20009-6525





Donna Shalala. Secretary U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

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